

Around Oregon

2 Oregon counties ponder pot production, sales in primary

ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Two Oregon counties might rescind bans on marijuana production and sales — which are allowed by state law — during Oregon's primary election on Tuesday.

The ballot measures are taking place in Klamath and Grant counties. Grant County Judge Scott Myers noted that the proponents of the measure named it 12-58, the same radio call sign used by some law enforcement bodies for narcotics activity.

Myers said last week that he would be more than surprised if it passes in the largely conservative county in eastern Oregon.

Shortly after Oregon voters decided to legalize marijuana, the state allowed cities and counties to ban marijuana production and sales where at least 55 percent of voters opposed legalization. Over 100 cities and counties have since "opted out," according to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.

Proponents of Measure 12-58 said that under Oregon law, medical and personal marijuana use, home cultivation of four plants and the transfer, without money, of one ounce of marijuana between individuals are still allowed in Grant County. They said that by banning commercial marijuana production and retail sales, the county is losing out on economic benefits.

In Klamath County, Measure 18-105 would require the county to allow "state-approved licenses, allowing medical dispensaries, retail farms and retail sales to conduct business."

Columbia Gorge is stage for hot dispute in Tuesday primary

ANDREW SELSKY,
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon's scenic Columbia River Gorge is the stage for one of the hottest disputes in Oregon's Tuesday primary — a proposal by Nestle to build a bottled water plant in Cascade Locks, using water from a mountain spring.

Town leaders and many of the residents support the idea because it would create badly needed jobs and generate annual revenue of hundreds

of thousands of dollars. But Nestle's plan has drawn opposition from orchard owners, Native American tribes, some residents and others.

Farm and orchard owners have noted Hood River County experienced drought in 2015. Water bottlers would compete with their orchards and farms for the growing population of the town of Hood River and its shrinking water supply, they said.

But City Manager Gordon Zimmerman says Cascade Locks has water to spare.

Nestle hopes to use 118 million gallons of water per year by 2020.

The company would pay Cascade Locks an undetermined amount for the water. But the town must first swap well water for spring water with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The department, which uses the spring-fed Little Herman Creek for its Oxbow Hatchery, has already agreed to trade.

The city would sell its new share of spring water to Nestle for its Arrowhead bottled water, branded as sourced from mountain springs.

Studies by the fish and wildlife department and one commissioned by Nestle say hatchery fish and wild salmon won't be affected.

Many folks aren't buying it. Opponents also object to trucks making 200 trips a day to and from the plant. And Native Americans have cited global warming, salmon die-offs and water conservation as reasons to reject the bottling plant.

3 prominent Democrats in heated race for secretary of state

KRISTENA HANSEN
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Oregon voters are deciding which of three prominent Democrats will get the nod to run for secretary of state, the second-most powerful position behind the governor, in November.

With about \$2 million spent since last year by the trio, it's the hardest-fought statewide race on the primary ballot.

The Democratic rivals are state Rep. Val Hoyle, state Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian and state Sen. Richard Devlin.

Two Republicans are also vying for the secretary of state job. They are Dennis Richardson, the GOP gubernatorial candidate who ran against former Gov. John Kitzhaber two years ago, and Lane County Commissioner Sid Leiken.

In the gubernatorial race, incumbent Kate Brown was facing token opposition from five little-known challengers during her first run for the post she inherited early last year when Kitzhaber stepped down. The two leading Republican

candidates are businessman Allen Alley and oncologist Bud Pierce.

In a primary with little excitement, the Democratic race for secretary of state generated some heat. The three candidates spent a substantial chunk of money launching attack ads against each other during the final days of campaigning.

Hoyle was blasted by her Democratic opponents for \$250,000 donated to her campaign by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg — the largest single donation in recent memory to a state secretary candidate — because of her role in passing Oregon's background check law on gun sales in 2015.

Avakian sent a fundraising email drawing attention to it with the headline "Wall Street Billionaire tries to buy Oregon's Democracy." Devlin called the move shocking because he said Hoyle has claimed she'll get big money out of Oregon politics.

Hoyle's campaign defended the contribution, saying she's built a rapport with Bloomer's office after several months of regular communication on gun reform issues.

In the gubernatorial race, Brown seemed so confident of victory over her five Democratic challengers that she barely campaigned.

Brown is running for her first full term as governor. As then-secretary of state, she was next in line when Gov. John Kitzhaber quit over an ethics scandal in February 2015.

Brown lists raising the minimum wage, guaranteeing paid sick leave for workers, increasing education funding by 9 percent and signing in a law that will eliminate coal power in Oregon as among her major accomplishments in her 14 months in office.

Brown's hand-picked successor as secretary of state, Jeanne Atkins, made it clear when she took the job that she did not plan to run for a full term.

Oregon unemployment rate stays at a low 4.5 percent

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The state Employment Department says Oregon added more than 5,000 jobs in April, keeping its jobless rate at 4.5 percent.

The agency says Oregon has gained 64,100 nonfarm payroll jobs since last April, when the unemployment rate was 5.7 percent. That's the most jobs Oregon has ever added in a 12-month period. The next closest was in May 1997, when the state added 61,500 jobs.

Since April 2015, job growth has been especially strong in construction, health care, and professional and business services.

Oregon's labor force participation rate rose to 62.6 percent in April, up from 60.8 percent in April 2015.

The Archive Zone: by Hillary Mohr from the Illinois Valley News archives

This week we will voyage back to May 19, 1977. Springtime was off to a "molasses slow" start in the Valley, but that didn't slow the pulse in the Valley. The city council voted in new ordinances, letters to the editor poured in like spring rain and students from around the Valley prepared for the I.V. Student Art Fair. Drop what you're doing and take a seat because it is time to journey into the Archive Zone.

1 killed, 2 injured in Friday crash. James Howard (Jimmie) Winland, 30, was killed instantly early Friday morning when his sedan collided almost head-on with a pickup at Laurel and 199, north of Cave Junction. Injured in the pickup were Jenny Lee Biggs, 30, Waldo Road; her husband Donald, 28, and their son Steven, 4. Mrs. Biggs suffered a broken arm, broken leg, rib injuries and facial fractures. Donald had facial injuries and neck

and back pains and their son Steven was treated for gasoline burns in the eyes and released. Sheriff's detectives are still investigating the cause of the accident. Winland was northbound, the Biggs' vehicle southbound and possibly beginning a left turn onto Laurel Road, detectives theorize. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Biggs can recall who was driving. Ironically, the Biggs family had just left the home of her mother, Holly Landaker, in Kerby, and Winland was driving to Mrs. Landaker's home when the accident occurred.

CJ passes off Street Parking Ordinance. The Cave Junction city council, meeting in a special session Thursday, approved 2-0 an off-street parking ordinance which will prohibit the issuance of any building or other permits on future construction starts until plans for adequate off-street parking are presented to the city by the developer. The

council wasted little time approving the off-street parking ordinance, which has been awaiting final action since it came out of the planning commission in December.

Oregon Caves Chateau opens May 22. The "Chateau," the rustic hotel at Oregon Caves National Monument, is scheduled to open Sunday, May 22. Overnight accommodations including hotel rooms and cottages, as well as food service in the dining room and coffee shop will be available to visitors to the Oregon Caves. Registration for guided tours of the cave will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning May 22. After June 1, visitors may register for the cave tour from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Tours enter the cave as often as parties of 16 people are formed. Visitors walk 0.6 mile of underground passageways, carved from the marble by acidic ground water. Water seeping into

cave rooms now builds stone decorations within them. There are low ceilings to avoid and many stairs to climb in this underground world, which stays a cool 41 degrees year-round, so it's best to wear good walking shoes and a jacket. Because the tour is strenuous, children under six are not permitted in the cave. A child care service is provided for a fee.

Obituaries. James H. Winland — Graveside services were held Tuesday in Laurel Cemetery, Cave Junction, for James Howard Winland, who was killed Friday in a traffic crash on Redwood Highway. Noble (Shorty) Crain, 66, died suddenly Tuesday, May 17, at his home on Dick George Road. Kandace Susan (Kandy) Powell, 21, died Monday evening (May 16) after being thrown by a horse she was riding. Ethel Holland Sowell, 88, died Sunday, May 15, at Royal Gardens Health Care Facility in Grants Pass.

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